



Department of Energy  
Idaho Operations Office  
850 Energy Drive  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

November 25, 2003

Mr. Matt Wilkening, Project Manager  
EPA Region X  
Idaho Operations Office  
1435 N. Orchard St.  
Boise, ID 83706

SUBJECT: Startup of OCVZ Unit F (EM-ER-03-289)

Dear Mr. Wilkening:

DOE had hoped to startup OCVZ Unit **F** by November 13, 2003. Unfortunately, schedule delays have pushed the projected startup date to the week of December 8, 2003. This means that the OCVZ project has been operating with only Unit **D** for longer than the seven weeks specified in your June 20, 2003 letter to Katie Hain.

DOE still does not expect any adverse impact from operating only Unit **D** while Unit F is being installed and tested. All three units were shut down for 9 weeks in 2000. Data gathered during the 2000 shutdown showed that there was virtually no increase in contaminant concentrations below 150 feet. This data can be found in the **Environmental and Operational Mid-Year Data Report** for the **OU 7-08 OCVZ Project – 2003, September 2003**. DOE is confident that operating only Unit D until Unit F is operational will not cause an adverse impact to human health or the environment.

The project team is taking advantage of the current shutdown to obtain useful data on VOC rebound concentrations. This information can be used in determining future extraction operations strategies. Monitoring data collected during the current shut down will be compared with data from the previous shut downs to help determine the effective decrease in VOC concentrations due to the OCVZ operations.

Please contact me at (208) 526-4392 or Mark Shaw at (208) 526-6442 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K E Hain", is written over the typed name.

Kathleen E. Hain, Manager  
Environmental Restoration Program

cc: D. Koch, DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706  
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